

Message Text

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PAGE 01 LISBON 00947 191817Z

61

ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 AF-06 ISO-00 CIAE-00 PM-03 H-01 INR-07 L-02

NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 USIA-06 SAM-01

IO-10 /073 W

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R 191714Z FEB 75

FM AMEMBASSY LISBON

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 1799

AMCONSUL BARCELONA

INFO AMEMBASSY BONN

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMCONSUL LOURENCO MARQUES

AMCONSUL LUANDA

AMEMBASSY MADRID

AMEMBASSY PARIS

USMISSION NATO

DIA WASHDC

USCINCEUR VAIHINGEN GER

AMCONSUL OPORTO

AMCONSUL PONTA DELGADA

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PINT, PO

SUBJ: TOP AFM MEMBER ATTACKS PPD AND PS

1. FEB. 19 MORNING NEWSPAPER CARRIED EXCERPTS OF INTERVIEW GRANTED BY CAPTAIN DURATE NUNO DE ATAIDE PINTO SOARES (MEMBER OF COUNCIL OF STATE AND OF ARMED FORCES MOVEMENT'S COORDINATING COMMITTEE) TO BARCELONA NEWSPAPER "EL NOTICIERO UNIVERSAL." LANGUAGE USED (AT LEAST IN EXCERPTS) WAS EXCEPTIONALLY HARD, TOUGH, EVEN THREATENING.

2. MAIN POINTS PINTO SOARES MADE WERE:

A. SOME RUMORS MUST BE CONSIDERED COUNTER-REVOLUTIONARY, EVEN
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PAGE 02 LISBON 00947 191817Z

CRIMINAL; THOSE ALLEGING THAT PORTUGAL IS ON "VERGE" OF CIVIL

WAR OR IN "CLIMATE OF PRE-CIVIL WAR" FALL IN THIS CATEGORY. THESE RUMORS ARE CALUMNIES, AND THE ARMED FORCES MOVEMENT (AFM) IS BEGINNING TO THINK OF TAKING STEPS AGAINST THOSE WHO SPREAD THEM.

B. WHILE RUMORS ALLEGE THAT DANGER OF CIVIL WAR STEMS FROM POLITICAL DIVISIONS WITHIN AFM, THE TRUTH IS THAT AFM IS UNITED; AFM ALWAYS TRIES REACH AGREEMENT ON BASIS UNANIMITY, EVEN WHEN DIFFERENT VIEWS EXIST.

C. AFM HAS NO DESIRE TO ASSUME HEGEMONIC FUNCTION IN DETERMINING EVOLUTION OF DEMOCRATIC PROCESS IN COUNTRY; IT WISHES MERELY TO BE REVOLUTION'S MOTOR, A REVOLUTION WHICH IT DOES NOT WISH TO SEE COMPROMISED BY PARTY INTERESTS OR FIGHTS.

D. PORTUGAL'S FUTURE POLITICAL EVOLUTION MAY RESEMBLE THOSE THIRD WOLD COUNTRIES WHICH HAVE CHOSEN SOCIALISM; WITHIN EUROPEAN CONTEXT PORTUGAL IS POOR AND UNABLE ATTAIN RAPID ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT BY MEANS OF CAPITALIST ROAD, REGARDLESS OF AMOUNT OF AID WHICH TRADITIONAL ALLIES MIGHT OFFER.

3. COMMENT: PINTO SOARES' HARD WORDS ON RUMOR-MONGERS WHO SPEAK ABOUT DIVISIONS WITHIN AFM AND CIVIL WAR DANGER CONSTITUTE CLEAR ATTACK ON SOCIALISTS (PS) AND PPD, WHOSE LEADERS SPOKE OUT STRONGLY AND OFTEN ALONG THESE LINES DURING JANUARY POLITICAL CRISIS. PINTO SOARES' INTERVIEW IS HARSHTEST CRITICISM OF PS AND PPD LEADERSHIP TO DATE FROM ANY TOP AFM LEADER. PINTO SOARES HAS NOT BEEN ONE OF MORE OUTSPOKEN OR WELL KNOWN AFM LEADERS. HIS MOST NOTABLE ACTION BEFORE THIS INTERVIEW WAS TO PUBLICLY SUPPORT THE PURGING (SANEAMENTO) OF HIS FATHER AS HEAD OF THE POLICE TRAINING SCHOOL.

4. ACTION REQUESTED: WOULD APPRECIATE CONGEN BARCELONA POUCHING US COPY OF FULL TEXT OF INTERVIEW.
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